Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

February 7, 2013

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Transportation Funding Bills Submitted to Missouri Legislature

by Holly Dentner

A major step was taken this week to address the future of transportation investment in Missouri.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Missouri State Senators Mike Kehoe and Ryan McKenna held a news conference to announce their co-sponsorship of legislation intended to kick-start the discussion on transportation funding.

The bill puts the future of Missouri's transportation in the hands of voters. Similar legislation was also submitted in the Missouri House, by Representatives Dave Schatz and Dave Hinson. The bills propose a constitutional amendment that would allow Missourians the opportunity to vote on a one-cent general sales/use tax dedicated specifically for transportation-related needs.

Commission Chairman Rudy Farber took questions from reporters during a news conference on Jan. 24.

The legislation is similar to a proposal presented by Commission Chairman Rudy Farber on Jan. 24, during the 2013 Missouri Conference on Transportation. Farber's proposal, which is available at modot.org, recommends a general sales and use tax for the next 10 years that would generate an estimated $7.9 billion in new transportation funding.

In the bills submitted by the House and Senate this week, 10 percent of the sales tax revenue would be distributed to cities and counties for local transportation purposes. The tax would not be collected on medicine, groceries, and gasoline.

The Commission also would be required to create a specific project list prior to the vote of the people, indicating how and where the new revenue would be spent.

If the bills pass the Legislature, the proposal could be placed before Missouri voters in 2014.

After the news conference, a local equipment operator and his son took a closer look at the U.S. 50 project.

State Senator Mike Kehoe addressed a large crowd during the Feb. 5 news conference, which took place at the U.S. 50 project in Osage County.

MoDOT Fine Tunes Tangible Results and Value Statements

By Jim Dickson

At the December 2012 Leadership Summit, Director Kevin Keith focused on clarifying MoDOT's direction as the department moves toward "the best days yet to come." Senior managers at the summit were challenged to streamline the department's Tangible Results and Value Statements to what is most important as the department goes forward.

A subcommittee of managers worked with input from the Leadership Summit, the executive team and two employee focus groups to develop MoDOT's new Tangible Results and Value Statements. Director Keith unveiled the new the changes at the February 6 Missouri

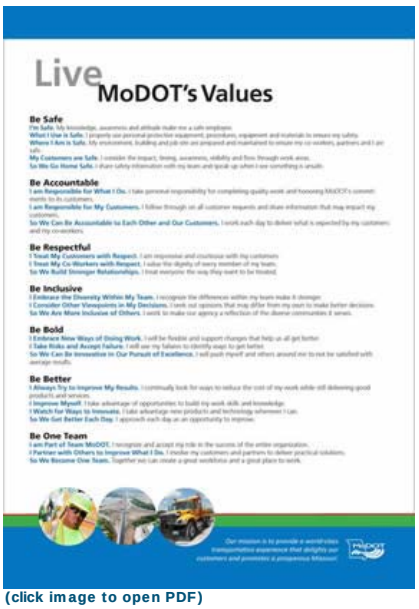
Highways and Transportation Commission meeting in Jefferson City.

Both the Tangible Results and the Value Statements have been shortened considerably but haven't changed their purposes.

Tangible Results still reflect what MoDOT customers expect the department to deliver, and the Value Statements still describe how MoDOT employees will work with customers, partners and each other. What is new is a "Live MoDOT Values" document, which is designed to help employees live out those values each day.

"The department is still in the business of delivering a world-class transportation system, and will continue to be results driven," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. "Going forward, Tracker will remain as the department's performance measurement tool, but some metrics may change."

MoDOT printed and electronic publications will reflect these changes in the coming months. New posters have been designed and will be displayed prominently in work areas. Online order forms for the posters can be found at http://wwwi/intranet/cr/posterform.htm. *(Internal link for employees only.)*



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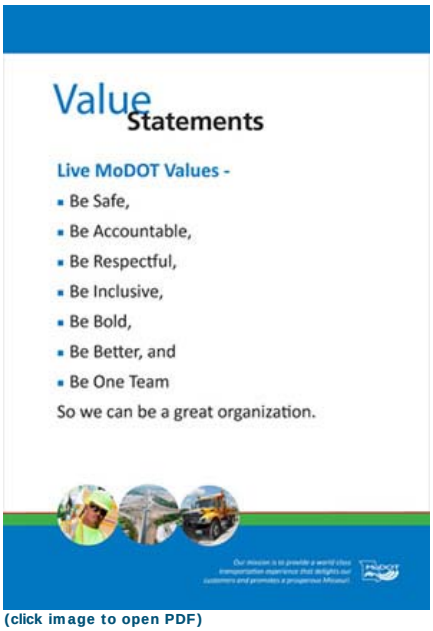

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St. Louis District Recognized for Preserving Trees on Route 141 Project

by Andrew Gates

A goal of "no tree wasted" was the driving force that helped a St. Louis construction team win a 2012 Missouri State Recycling Program Award.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon presented the recycling award to the Route 141 project team during a ceremony in Jefferson City on January 23.

The Route 141 project relocated a two-mile stretch of the state roadway further east through some undeveloped land. One of the public's concerns was minimizing the potential impact of construction on the surrounding woodlands and environment.

The "No Tree Wasted" plan developed due to those concerns used a three-fold approach to minimizing the impact of the project. First, the department limited the number of trees that the contractor could remove. Secondly, the contractor had to harvest any usable wood from trees that were removed. Finally, any additional branches or smaller trees were mulched and used to control erosion during construction.

"This project was a major undertaking," said Joshua Topper, one of the construction inspectors for the project. "One of our goals was to encourage the contractor to use environmentally friendly and sustainable practices during construction. One of the most important elements was

simply not removing trees. Although every tree removed on the project was replaced – it often takes many years for those trees to grow back to the size of the original."

Instead of the department's regular practice of removing all trees between the department's right-of-way lines, designers and inspectors carefully determined where trees had to be removed and where trees could be saved. More than 100 mature trees are estimated to have been saved with this process.

The Route 141 Project Team: Casey Henning, Jason White, Nancy Leroney, Dave Rein. (Not pictured: Josh Topper)

Trees that had to be removed were harvested and delivered to a local saw mill. Crews harvested nearly 950 logs, which produced nearly 300,000 board feet of lumber. Ultimately, these boards were used for hardwood flooring, cabinets, boat paddles, shutters and wood for pallets.

The trimmings from the trees, including sawdust, branches and smaller brush, were then further recycled.

"Crews recycled the trimmings into bark mulch, sawdust and woodchips. The sawdust helped fuel the lumber yards kilns. The wood chips were used to cover playgrounds or to make paper and cardboard. Much of the bark mulch was used on site, to provide mulch berms to control erosion around creeks on the project. These were great alternative to plastic silt fence, since the mulch berms could be left on site to decompose when the project is complete," said Topper.

The project recycled more than 300 tons of wood chips as well as an estimated 330 tons of mulch and 250 tons of sawdust.

Because of the success of this plan, other roadway projects in Missouri are now using this approach to recycling.

Frank Tidd, a maintenance supervisor from the St. Louis District, also was recognized by the Missouri Recycling Program for his efforts to use large cinders instead of rock to fill edge ruts. Frank's innovation will be featured in the next issue of Connections.

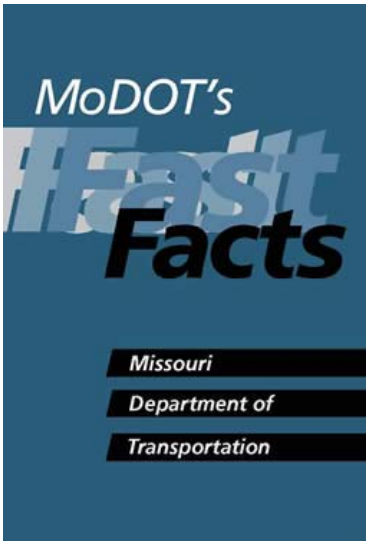
On the Move

Listening sessions began this month for "On The Move," the statewide public engagement effort to update the state's transportation plan. Learn more about On The Move at www.missourionthemove.org.

Click It 4 Life

NASCAR driver Carl Edwards joins Lt. John Hotz to help spread the Missouri State Highway Patrol's seat belt safety message. (Click to start video)

Back by Popular Demand – MoDOT's Fast Facts Cards!



You're moaning with your friends about the latest gas price increase when one of your buddies asks what MoDOT is doing with all the great cash it rakes in with each uptick. You know the department gets a share of a set per-gallon tax – no matter what the convenience store charges – but how much is that state tax?

Your father-in-law casually tosses his fast food bag out the truck…right after complaining there are potholes in the highway. You know litter pick up is a big expense, but you'd like to see that money go to fix roads. How much does MoDOT spend to pick up litter?

Answers to those questions can be found in the updated MoDOT Fast Facts card. It's a handy compilation of several of the most-often requested pieces of department information. You can use the information in papers, presentations or simply to make a point in a conversation.

Copies will be distributed in the next several weeks. Request additional cards from your local Customer Relations office.

If you're wondering, the answers to the questions above are:
The state fuel tax is 17 cents per gallon. Cities, counties and MoDOT share that revenue. And MoDOT spends $5 million a year on litter pick-up. Check the card to see how many bridges (on average) we could build if everyone put trash in its place and we didn't have to pick it up anymore!

February Service Anniversaries

35 Years
Janet L. Cutbirth - SW

30 Years
David C. Feilner - SL
Bernard Wayne Menke - SL
John Lee Pritchett – SL

25 Years
Lucy S. Smith - SL
Lonnie Keith Jordon - SW
Ronald Lee Cook - SE
Jerry L. Spencer - SE
Shelley K. Claypool – CO

20 Years
John Neal Oehring - CD
Jeremy Lyn Clark - SL
Stephen P. Clark - SL
Roger Allan Matthews - SW
Dennis Wayne Mitchell - SE
Ronald Dean Wilson - SE
Toni M. Prawl - CO

15 Years
Michael C. Mooney - NW
Wesley Charles Wallick - NW
Charles E. Derboven - NE
Warren Ray Stalker - KC
Christopher V. Weikel - KC
Marlene Ora Hale - SW
Roy S. Vogel - SW
Mark M. Wilde – CO

10 Years
Catherine Michelle Moore - KC
Brian P. Pennock - KC
Rex Garner Studt - KC
Richard Glen Turney - KC
Randy A. Whyde - KC
Terry D. Blankenship - CD
Donald Phillip Armfield - SL
Angela Marie Fuerst - SL
Deborah Lee Gallagher - SL
Patrick J. Keller - SL
Arisa Prapaisilp - SL
Jennifer Jean Hall - CO
Mendy Jo Sundermeyer – CO

5 Years
Emery J. McNairy - NE
David A. Beasley - KC
Jeffrey J. Hardy - KC
Jerry L. Howard - KC
Terrence M. McCanless - KC
Noel C. Norman - KC
Casey B. Ballew - CD
Gary L. Bell - CD
Dennis A. Hagen - CD
Rose M. Berg - SL
Stephen A. Georges - SL
George L. Plunk – SL
Mark R. Gott - SW
Richard Munoz - SW
Eric J. Turner - SW
Terry Hill - SE
Danny Ray Ivie - SE
Dwayne A. Lamar - SE
Robert L. Pulliam - SE
Christopher A. Bauer - CO
Bradley Scott Marion - CO
Justin L. Roark - CO

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Clinton Memorial Airport to be Business-Capable Next Summer

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Pages of planning and design documents, lots of earth moving and a bit more than 48,000 square yards of concrete will soon result in an upgrade for the public-use airport in Clinton, Mo. It is set to become Missouri's 35th business-capable airport in summer 2013.

An aerial view of the Clinton Airport prior to construction.

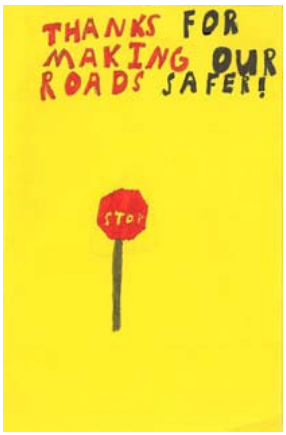
Business-capable airports feature runways of 5,000 feet or more. Runways of this length are needed by larger aircraft used to transport people and goods.

"Having a business capable airport opens up the ability to accommodate business jets," said Liz Duvall, aviation program manager. "This makes the area more attractive for new businesses. It can also affect existing businesses' decisions to stay or expand within the area."

In addition to a lengthened runway, work continues to expand the taxiway – a paved path that connects the runway with all of the buildings and facilities at the airport.

Students Thank MoDOT Employees

by DeAnne Rickabaugh



Dear MoDOT:
Thank you for keeping our roads and bridges safe. We really appreciate it. We have had a really safe school year thanks to you and many others. We hope that you can keep our roads safe for a few more generations. We hope that you enjoy keeping us safe as much as we enjoy having you to protect us.

Dear MoDOT,
Thank you for working hard to keep our roads clean and safe so that I can get to school safely every day, and so that my family will stay safe. Also, thank you for making things like going on vacation easier and safer. Thank you again for all of your hard work.

Thank you MoDOT, for ...
1. *Keeping our roads safe*
2. *Fixing our power lines*

3. Plowing snow
4. And being mighty nice people.

Dear MoDOT,
Thank you for watching over our great city. You guys and gals are awesome. Peace out. YOU ROCK!

Mrs. Wankum and Mr. Rothweiler's sixth grade classes from nearby St. Peter School visited Central Office to present Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker notes of thanks they wrote to MoDOT employees.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, students nationwide celebrate the many people and organizations that make their education possible. The Jefferson City school determined that MoDOT is deserving of recognition for the part it plays in education.

As caretakers of the transportation system, MoDOT makes it possible to get to and from school safely – though, as some students noted, highway crews and plows limit the number of highly-desired snow days.

"Meeting with the kids was so much fun," said Broeker. "I asked them why they wanted to thank MoDOT. They said 'You keep us safe.' We talk a lot about keeping ourselves and our customers safe, and it was great to hear these young people say that's why they appreciate MoDOT workers."

Students were particularly interested in highway safety information such as the number of children killed in crashes (73 people under the age of 18 in 2012) and how rumble stripes make roads safer. Each child left with a Buckle Up – Arrive Alive keychain to remind them of the easiest thing they can do to survive a crash.

"Talking with the students and reading their thank you notes was an unexpected pleasure. I hope they practice and share with their families and friends our key safety messages…always buckle up, don't text while driving, don't drink and drive," said Broeker. "I want these kids around in the future. Who knows, maybe I met a future chief financial officer of MoDOT!"

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Northwest District

Northwest Schools Battle To Save Lives

Area Engineer Mike Rinehart presented a $500 check and gold banner to the students at Osborn High School to acknowledge their 100 percentseat belt use rate in the Battle of the Belt program.

Students at Cainsville High School were presented a $500 check by Area Engineer Tonya Lohman for being the Most Improved Seat Belt Use school in the Northwest District.

Nineteen high schools across Northwest Missouri battled it out last fall in a statewide seat belt use competition to see who could increase their students' seat belt usage rate the most.The Battle of the Belt Challenge works to raise seat belt use among teens and hopefully decrease traffic crash related injuries and fatalities.

Participating schools launched two surprise seat belt checks to measure student seat belt use before and after an educational campaign. In addition, schools had the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot to encourage their peers to buckle up.

For the third year in a row, Osborn High School in DeKalb County won the Northwest Region's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use achieving 100 percent seat belt use. Cainsville R-1 High School in Harrison County won for Most Improved Seat Belt Use increasing seat belt use from 47 percent to 65 percent (an increase of 39 percent). Both schools received $500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs at the schools.

Five schools in the Northwest Region will receive recognition for seat belt use that reached gold (99-100 percent), silver (95-98 percent) or bronze (91-94 percent) levels of seat belt use and will receive banners to display at the schools donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

In Northwest Missouri, banner winners are:

Gold - Osborn High School - 100 percent
Silver - East Buchanan High School - 97.39 percent
- Northwest High School - 98.57 percent
- West Nodaway High School - 95.65 percent
Bronze - Craig High School - 93.94 percent

Congratulations to all of our winners!

Ride Along with the Northwest District

The Northwest District has had several snow fights already this winter. During the storm on Dec. 19 and 20, 2012, our Customer Relations division rode along with one of our snow plow drivers, Maintenance Crew Leader Dave Yarnell. We posted his picture to Facebook that day and our Facebook followers loved it! There were over 650 "likes" and the picture was shared 41 times! The people liked Dave and wanted more, so we put together a short video and posted it to YouTube to show our customers a small glimpse into what the snow plow driver has to go through in a snow fight.

Click on the photo to the right to watch the video. We hope you enjoy riding along as much as we did!

MoDOT On The Move at Great Northwest Day

Area Engineer Tonya Lohman and Customer Relations Manager Melissa Black participated in Great Northwest Day at the Capitol this week. Great Northwest Day is a cooperative effort by the communities in Northwest

Chief Engineer Dave Nichols spoke to the more than 300 constituents representing communities and agencies across Northwest Missouri.

Missouri to unify and enhance our region's image in Jefferson City. Great Northwest Day gives communities and leaders an opportunity to meet face-to-face with legislators and set priorities for Northwest Missouri. The day's events are facilitated by Leadership Northwest Missouri, in which both Tonya and Melissa have participated. Among the speakers was MoDOT's Chief Engineer Dave Nichols, who spoke about On The Move.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Northeast District

Northeast School Hits 100% Seat Belt Usage

by Tana Akright

Two schools cashed in big!

Northeast R-IV High School in Cairo won the Northeast Regional Award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use achieving 100 percent seat belt use. This is the first time since the beginning of the competition that a Northeast Missouri school has successfully reached 100 percent.

On Feb. 5, the Battle of the Belt banner presentation was made to Northeast R-IV High School in Cairo, Mo. Northeast R-IV is the first and only school in the Northeast District to ever achieve 100 percent seat belt usage. Presenting the banner and plaque was MoDOT Area Engineer Brian Haeffner. Larry Gibbs, American Family Insurance agent, was on hand to present the $500 check. Accepting the awards was Mary Beth Keen, guidance counselor and school coordinator for BOTB program, along with a couple of her students who are members of the T.A.L.K. (Teens Against Life's Kinks) organization.

Adair County R-I High School in Novinger won the Northeast Regional award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use increasing their seat belt use from 38 percent to 97 percent.

Both schools will receive $500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs at the schools.

Banners donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians will be given to the following schools:

- Northeast R-IV High School – Cairo - Gold Banner – 100%
- Highland High School - Ewing - Silver Banner – 97.83%
- Adair County R-1 High School – Novinger - Silver Banner – 97.30%
- Marion County High School – Philadelphia - Silver Banner – 95.59%
- Ralls County R-II (Mark Twain) High School – Center - Bronze Banner – 93.75%
- Pike County R-III (Clopton) High School – Clarksville - Bronze Banner – 91.19%

For the 30-second video competition, 10 Missouri schools submitted videos. The top three winning videos also received money to further seat belt educational programs at their schools. Montgomery County High School received Honorable Mention for their video “What would Willy do?” The winning videos and pictures of the banner presentations can be viewed by visiting www.saveMOlives.com.

Five of six of the Northeast District submissions to the Tool & Equipment Challenge were selected to be showcased at the statewide competition in April! Go to the February Northeast Newsletter for pictures of all entries.

Everyone... Just Drive!

Northeast Coalition to hold Regional Blueprint Conference

by Marisa Ellison

On Wednesday, March 6, the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is inviting partners and the public to attend a mini-Blueprint Conference to be held at the Quality Inn in Hannibal from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., which will conclude with the Coalition’s annual meeting.

Dr. Leanna Depue, highway safety director, will formally unveil the new goal for the Coalition and share information from a statewide perspective. Speakers will share their

stories about lives lost, lives changed and lives saved as a result of seat belt usage.

Many other speakers are planned, as well as booths and other resources that will be available to provide valuable information on road safety.

Going Once... Going Twice... Sold!

by Marisa Christy-Kerns

On January 26, MoDOT's Northeast District sold some excess equipment as part of a consignment auction that was held at the Wheeler Auction lot in Paris, Mo.

Approximately 150 pieces of equipment were sold, including pull brooms, snow plows, batwing mowers, spreaders, blades, among many others. The auction generated approximately $100,000.

"We were pleased with the outcome of the sale," said Steven Pike, support services manager. "These funds will be put to work on roads in the Northeast District."

The district will continue its efforts to reduce excess inventory with another auction planned for the summer.

Thousands of individuals turned out for the consignment auction held on Jan. 26 in Paris, Mo. With all of the equipment being sold at the auction, including equipment from the Northeast District, four auction rings were used throughout the day.

For more info

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KansasCity District

I-70 Study Proposes Three Improvement Alternatives

February mobile meetings designed to increase public engagement

by Jennifer Benefield

MoDOT's environmental study of approximately seven miles of I-70 in Kansas City, from The Paseo interchange to the Blue Ridge Cutoff interchange, is on pace to be completed about a year from now, with the help of extensive community guidance.

MoDOT Project Manager Allan Zafft (right front) and CDM Principal Planner and Group Leader Chris Nazar (right back) host an I-70 Second Tier EIS mobile meeting February 1, 2013 at The Museums & Vine. Customers review plans and offer comments on three proposed alternatives: no-build, geometric improvements, and interchange consolidations. For more information visit www.metroi70.com. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

In February, five mobile meetings throughout the study corridor, an online town hall meeting, public presentations with discussion, and meetings with key stakeholders and elected officials are many of the ways MoDOT will be listening to gather customer feedback.

The study team is also using InTouch Live! – a tablet app that works as a digital comment card to capture public comment and show users the results of their responses compared to others in real-time. The app requires respondents to enter a ZIP code, which in turn helps the study team target its outreach efforts.

"This tool makes is fast and easy to provide input," said MoDOT Project Manager Allan Zafft. "We're able to see where mobile meeting participants live and work without requesting that they complete a sign-in sheet or provide an email address. It will be good measure of whether or not we're truly engaging people from the corridor."

MoDOT started the study with 12 alternatives. With the public's input and study team's evaluation, the alternatives have been narrowed to three.

"We're now seeking additional ideas to further refine these and develop a preferred improvement alternative for this section of I-70," said Zafft.

The proposed alternatives include:

- No-Build: includes maintenance activities as needed and projects that are already committed;
- Geometric Improvements: incorporates the No Build Alternative with improvements aimed at improving the engineering issues in the corridor, such as short ramp lengths, tight curves and weave areas;
- Interchange Consolidations: incorporates the Geometric Improvements Alternative and consolidates some closely spaced interchanges.

"We encourage people to log on to our online town hall meeting at www.metroi70.com to let us know what they think through February 25," said Zafft. "We're also encouraging people to stop by and talk with a member of our study team."

Mobile meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  St. Paul School of Theology, 5123 E. Truman Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64127

- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
  Linwood Family YMCA, 3800 E. Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, Mo. 64128

- Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, 8 to 10 a.m.
  Kansas City VA Medical Center, 4801 Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, Mo. 64128

"There is currently no funding for design and construction," said Zafft. "But completing this study is an important step in having the project ready to go should funding become available."

The study kicked off in December 2011 and conclude in spring 2014. It builds upon the broader work of the I-70 First Tier Environmental Impact Statement to help devise a more detailed plan on how to best improve the safety and condition of I-70. The portion of interstate under study is experiencing pavement and bridge deterioration, traffic delays and congestion, and merging/weaving issues at interchanges.

For more information about this study, including history, timeline and community involvement opportunities, please visit the project website at www.modot.org/kansascity/metroi70.

For more info

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Listening Session Draws Good Crowd, Important Feedback

More than 50 mid-Missourians turned out for MoDOT's first On the Move listening session held Feb. 5 in Columbia. The listening session was part of MoDOT's statewide engagement effort to update Missouri's long-range transportation plan.

A participant in the Central District's Feb. 5 On the Move listening session shares his views about the future of transportation in Missouri. More than 50 people attended the first listening session held as part of MoDOT's statewide engagement effort to update Missouri's long-range transportation plan.

The University of Missouri, along with MoDOT, hosted the event, which was held at the Reynolds Alumni Center. Vice President for Research & Technology Michael Nichols kicked off the event by welcoming the group and sharing examples of the important role transportation plays in the university's operations. He noted that transportation's impact on the university system runs the gamut from getting students to and from the university to the university's transportation research efforts.

"When we received a call from MoDOT to co-host this event, we thought it was a great opportunity to provide a forum for this important discussion," Nichols said.

Central District Engineer Dave Silvester gave an overview of Missouri's transportation system, citing specific details about the central Missouri area. Dave pointed out that MoDOT has a big system to maintain and that we're doing the best we can to keep it in good condition given our declining revenue stream.

"The time to move is now," Dave told the group. He encouraged session attendees to get involved, as well as to engage friends and family members in the effort to create a long-range vision for Missouri transportation.

The audience then broke into groups to brainstorm their priorities given two revenue scenarios. While most of the feedback supported maintaining the current system in good condition before directing funds to new construction projects, others commented that the current transportation funding situation is unacceptable and stated we can't afford to continue to fund our transportation system at today's level. Enhancing safety and creating jobs were the main goals the participants wanted to see happen with additional funding.

The Central District's second listening session will be held March 19 in Lebanon.

Commission Honors Humphrey with Safety Award

When St. Robert Maintenance Crew Leader Arlis Humphrey went to work on an early-morning highway improvement project, little did he know he would end the day by saving a life.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on Wednesday honored Humphrey with the Meritorious Service Award, the highest level of safety award presented by MoDOT and the commission, for rescuing an unresponsive man he encountered lying in the middle of the road. The award recognizes employees or members of the public for life-saving actions taken during an emergency or life-threatening event.

Just after 1 a.m. on August 23, Humphrey narrowly avoided striking an intoxicated and unresponsive man lying in the middle of Business Route 44 in Waynesville. He stopped and directed traffic around the man to protect him from oncoming traffic. Humphrey then made contact with the disoriented man, who indicated he had had too much to drink.

Fearing for the man's safety, Humphrey placed him in his vehicle and transported him to the St. Robert maintenance facility. Humphrey then contacted local police, who assured Humphrey they would get the motorist home safely.

"I am just thankful that I saw him before anyone else did," said Humphrey. "I honestly believe he would have been run over if I hadn't been traveling there at that point in time."

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presents St. Robert Maintenance Crew Leader Arlis Humphrey with the Meritorious Safety Award for rescuing an unresponsive man he encountered lying in the middle of the road. The award is the highest level of safety award presented by MoDOT and the commission.

Mike Dunavant Retires

Senior Construction Inspector Mike Dunavant, pictured at left with Central District Engineer Dave Silvester, retired Feb. 1 after 29 years of service to MoDOT. During his career with MoDOT, he worked in the Fulton and Columbia project offices. Mike was honored at a reception held Jan. 17.

Safety Is the Name of the Game

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety made an appearance at the Mizzou Arena on Jan. 26 before a sold out crowd. Coalition members were present to emphasize the importance of focusing on safety in a vehicle.

Volunteers used the Highway Patrol seat belt convincer to demonstrate seat belt safety. They also used fatal vision goggles to show those in attendance the effects on vision, physical reaction time, and awareness that occur when driving impaired.

Volunteers from the Jefferson City Police Department (Doug Ruediger) and the Boone County Sheriff's Office (Brian Leer), along with Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner (and family) and Buckle Bear were in attendance.

Employees from the Boonville maintenance facility also got in the safety game recently. Senior Maintenance Workers Dewey Bartel and Danny Scott visited with students at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Preschool in Boonville to talk about the importance of being safe. Dewey and Danny demonstrated MoDOT's tandem snow plow, handed out goodie bags and talked to the kids about the work MoDOT performs. Buckle Bear (Danny Scott) also made an appearance at the school and met with the kids.

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Comments & Suggestions

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St. Louis District

St. Louis Introduces Plans for Second Diverging Diamond Interchange in Area

by Jack Wang

In partnership with St. Charles County and the City of St. Peters, MoDOT recently hosted a public meeting for the reconstruction of the Interstate 70 and Mid Rivers Mall Drive interchange. The project consists of reconstructing the interchange into a diverging diamond interchange (DDI). Construction also includes adding an additional westbound I-70 lane between Mid Rivers Mall Drive and Route 79.

MoDOT has built numerous diverging diamond interchanges in Missouri, including the first DDI in the St. Louis region at the Interstate 270 and Dorsett Road interchange in the City of Maryland Heights. Some of the advantages of a diverging diamond interchange include free turns for motorists, meaning vehicles don't cross opposing traffic. Traffic models indicate this type of interchange works well with areas of heavy traffic, such as Mid Rivers Mall Drive.

Attendees of the open house meeting viewed construction plans and discussed the project's impacts with MoDOT engineers. Participants were encouraged to submit comments about the plans, the schedule and possible impacts during the public meeting.

"We had a great turnout from the public, business owners and elected officials in and around the St. Peters area," said Tom Evers, MoDOT St. Charles Area Engineer.

He added, "Some had questions about driving in the DDI, but once we showed them how to navigate the diverging diamond interchange, a lot of concerns were addressed and people felt comfortable about how this new interchange would help ease the traffic congestion in this area. Others were surprised on how quick and aggressive our construction schedule is, but folks told us they like the idea of us reconstructing it as quickly as we can to minimize traffic impacts."

For more information on this project, visit its webpage at: www.modot.org/stlouis/I-70andMidRiversMallDriveDivergingDiamondInterchange.htm

Pictured: MoDOT Transportation Project Designer Amy Twellmann speaks with a business owner about the reconstruction of the I-70 and Mid Rivers Mall Drive Interchange into a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI).

Traffic and Highway Safety Encourages Training Workshop in Districts

by Kara Price

The Traffic and Highway Safety division is conducting training sessions in St. Louis, Kansas City and the Central regions for all seven districts to participate in this year.

"The traffic safety workshop involves various training modules on important elements in traffic safety that will help enhance our daily work," said MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue.

The workshop training includes variety of topics during two different sessions:

- Overview of the Blueprint to Save More Lives
- Programming safety funding
- Implementing systemic safety solutions
- Research on safety initiatives
- How to conduct a road safety assessment
- Working and interviewing with the media
- Legal issues like depositions and sunshine requests
- Overview of the 2012 crash report introduced by the Highway Patrol, weekly fatality updates, local road safety, travel safe zones and other ordinances
- Utilizing the Transportation Management System (TMS) data. Part of this training involves using the safety applications in TMS, using the ARAN video program, using ArcGIS and building queries to help employees do their job using Microsoft Access.

Pictured (left to right): St. Louis Customer Relations staff Jack Wang and Kara Price provide media interview training to the traffic safety workshop participants. Media training was one of the many topics covered during the workshop.

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Arisa Prapaisilp was one of the volunteers who practiced being a MoDOT spokesperson for a media interview.

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Comments & Suggestions

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MOISTURE-PROOFING: Sealing pavement cracks on Route 82 east of Osceola are Seasonal Crew Worker Dustin Cutler, left, and Senior Maintenance Worker Jim Snyder from Osceola Maintenance. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

HELPING A CUSTOMER: Senior Risk Management Technician Jodie Payne, right, takes information from a driver submitting a claim for a broken windshield. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

'On the Move' Push Travels Across Southwest District

by Bob Edwards

MoDOT's statewide public engagement initiative known as On the Move is making its way across the Southwest District.

District management team members who are part of the On the Move outreach are speaking to all employees about the program.

These managers also are giving On the Move presentations to community groups and local government leaders, including city, county and school officials.

Information and opinions gathered through On the Move will help MoDOT update its long-range transportation plan.

The effort also will enable MoDOT to determine needs and set priorities for projects that will provide a safe and modern transportation system into the future.

"This is our opportunity to have a conversation about the importance of transportation to our economy," District Engineer Becky Baltz said. Another key focus, she said, is keeping safety front and center.

Listening Sessions in Joplin and Springfield

Preparations are being made for two Southwest District On the Move "Listening Sessions" -- forums in which community leaders, transportation experts and the general public will be able to give their opinions about needs and funding issues.

The Listening Sessions are:

- Tuesday, March 5, in the main conference room in the Joplin Public Schools administration building.
- Thursday, March 7, in the conference room of the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

The time for each session will be announced.

At the Listening Sessions, Baltz will outline the issues facing the state's transportation system. Then those in attendance, expected to include many business and civic leaders in the region, will meet in small groups to discuss needs and funding

issues.

Listening Sessions are being held in every district in the state. The first was this week in Columbia.

On the Ground and On the Web

Mobile tours are being scheduled this spring in every county to enable MoDOT leaders to talk to people from all walks of life and obtain their views about transportation issues.

The tour will hit all 21 counties in the Southwest District, led by members of the district's management team.

Information about On the Move, including its progress over the next few months, can be found on a special website -- missourionthemove.org.

Anyone can visit the web site and submit an email making suggestions and discussing transportation issues.

Information gained through the On the Move process will help MoDOT prepare a report outlining the vision for Missouri transportation for the next 20 years. The plan is expected to be released in the summer of 2013.

Route 65 Concrete Pavement In Benton County Wins Award

by Angela Eden

The Route 65 widening project in Benton County, completed last fall, is being honored for the quality of the concrete pavement.

It is the winner of the 33rd Annual MO/KS Portland Cement Concrete Paving -- Divided Highways (rural) category.

The honor comes from the American Concrete Pavement Association Missouri/Kansas Chapter and will be presented at a luncheon on Feb. 28 in Kansas City.

ACPA Missouri/Kansas Chapter Executive Director Todd LaTorella said the project met stringent criteria, including the length of the project, quality of the pavement and complexity of the project.

"We want to reward the folks in Design and Construction for the good work they do and for the product they're putting down," LaTorella said.

The project will be entered in the national competition held in August.

The highway's expansion to four lanes and the high-quality workmanship that went into the paving provide great value to the region, Clinton Resident Engineer Brett Foster said.

"We've got a good product," he said. "It has a high ride quality."

MoDOT Senior Construction Inspector Eric Mothersbaugh from the Marshall Project Office was the lead inspector on the job.

MoDOT Safety Message:

I'm Safe.
What I Use is Safe
Where I Am is Safe
My Customers are Safe
So We Go Home Safe

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Southeast District

Southeast Schools Cash In on Buckling Up

Local schools took the challenge to buckle up and made it click. Statewide, 139 schools, including 38 in the Southeast District participated in this year's Battle of the Belt Challenge, a competition to raise seat belt use among teens.

The Southeast District's Couch High School, located in Myrtle, Mo., was named the state's first place winner in the 30-second video competition.

Participating schools launched surprise seat belt checks to measure student seat belt use before and after an educational campaign. Schools also had the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot to encourage their peers to buckle up.

Notre Dame Regional High School won the Southeast District's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use, achieving 99.76 percent use. South Pemiscot High School won the Southeast District's award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use, increasing use from 43.51 percent to 99.42 percent. Both schools will receive $500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs.

Four schools in the Southeast area will receive statewide recognition for seat belt use that reached gold (99-100%) or silver (95-98%) levels and will receive banners donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians to display at the schools. Those schools include:

- Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau—Gold
- Saxony Lutheran High School, Jackson—Gold
- Richland High, Essex—Silver
- South Pemiscot High School, Steele—Silver

In the 30-second video competition, 12 Missouri schools submitted 17 videos. The Southeast District's Couch High School, located in Myrtle, Mo., was named the state's first place winner. Second and third place winners were Diamond and Potosi high schools, respectively. The winning videos may be viewed at www.saveMOlives.com. Winners will receive funding to further seat belt educational programs at their schools.

"We're proud of our local schools for showing a commitment to buckling up and wanting to help other teens understand the importance of wearing a seat belt every time they ride in or drive a vehicle." said Craig Compas, regional coordinator for Battle of the Belt. "Seat belts save lives."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 15-20 years old. Results of a 2012 survey among Missouri teens indicate 34 percent of teens travel unbuckled, putting them at greater risk to be killed or injured in a traffic crash. Eight out of 10 teens killed in Missouri traffic crashes are unbuckled.

Battle of the Belt was originally brought to Southwest Missouri by the Missouri Emergency Nurses Association and St. John's Hospital. In 2006, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, in conjunction with American Family Insurance, took the competition statewide and continue to sponsor this year's program with the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

Visit www.savemolives.com/southeast/index.html to learn more about Coalition activities in the Southeast District.

City of Hollister Thanks MoDOT

On behalf of the residents, elected officials and staff of the City of Hollister, please accept our sincere appreciation for a job well done.

The U.S. Business Highway 65 at St. James Street intersection expansion has been a long-awaited, badly-needed improvement to our historic downtown district. The issues of pedestrian, school bus and motor vehicle safety have been at the forefront of this initiative. With the addition of a signalized intersection, that includes a turn lane, crosswalks and sidewalks, both motorists and pedestrians enjoy the benefits of this project.

The City of Hollister thanked MoDOT for their role in the Route 65/St. James Street intersection project and looks forward to the safety benefits the upgrades will bring to the area.

This marks another in a long list of significant projects built by the MoDOT--Hollister partnership. Each project is unique and this one brought its own special traits. Early in the process the City was apprised that the inspection of this project would be handled by the Willow Springs Office of the Southeast District by people that we had never met or may never meet again after this project is complete, this certainly heightened our anticipation.

As it turned out we were introduced to two skilled professionals, in the persons of Mr. Lindell Huskey and Mr. Larry Rothermich. Larry was the face of MoDOT, on a daily basis. He was not only the owner's representative but he was also an engaged member of the team. His "can do" approach became his trademark. Anything we needed through the system Lindell was always there and never failed to deliver.

To the men and women of the MoDOT team, from the inspectors to the striping crew to the traffic control people, our thanks and our respect. To our new friends and our old friends, once again, thanks for a job well done.

Respectfully,

Rick Ziegenfuss, City Administrator

David G. Tate, Mayor

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